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## PRESS RELEASE

—For Immediate Release—

The Honorable Kermit V. Lipez, judge of the First Circuit Court of Appeals, received the Advocate for Justice Award from the Maine Judicial Branch on October 24, 2006. Judge Lipez has been a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit since April 7, 1998. Before that, he served as an Associate Justice on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court from 1994 to 1998, and as a Justice on the Maine Superior Court from 1985 to 1994. He is a graduate of Haverford College and Yale Law School, and received his L.L.M. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1990.

The Advocate for Justice Award is given to that person who has most effectively championed the cause of justice in our society. Judge Lipez was presented this award for his outstanding work as Chair of the Justice Action Group.

Chief Justice Saufley, presenting the award to Judge Lipez during a full meeting of the Justice Action Group, noted that the judge “has given an

extraordinary amount of time and energy to advocacy for low income and disadvantaged Maine people who need access to justice.”

Under Judge Lipez’s leadership, JAG has been exceptionally successful in developing innovative approaches to funding badly needed civil legal services. The Chief noted that with the support and leadership of Judge Lipez, the Campaign for Justice was launched three years ago to obtain additional funding for legal services through donations from the legal community and increased support from the Legislature. Recently, again with Judge Lipez at the helm, JAG has entered into a new era of creativity and innovation in its continuing efforts to improve the availability of legal services for Mainers in need.

At the presentation of the award, the Chief summed up Judge Lipez’s persistence and energy in pursuing the goals of JAG as follows: “In short, despite the pressures of his own work as a very busy and very well-respected appellate jurist, Judge Lipez has given generously of his own time and has brought an innovative and thoughtful approach to improving access to justice throughout Maine.”